

OPS Presser Readout

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OPS Presser Readout (Tripartite Media Avail)

Chief Bell

- OPS, OPP and RCMP have been collaborating and have been bolstering resources, and preparing to take action
- Have been communicating over the last few days, and have warned protestors about the consequences. Law enforcement is prepared to employ lawful techniques to remove unlawful protestors
- Safety of residents is priority. Increased police presence within the area may be distressing.
- Overnight and throughout the morning, the perimeter around the protests has been hardened with fences etc. Have introduced a secured area that will have police presence to ensure that those seeking entry to protest can not enter the downtown core. Checkpoints to be set up to enter the hardened area.
- Officers are aware of the impact on the residence and businesses.
- Want to reassure that if you live, work or have a lawful reason to be in area will be free to move around, and will be admitted and free to leave whenever.

Questions

- How will you know who has a lawful reason to enter the secured area?
 - Law enforcement are aware of lawful reasons to be there will be admitted. Intention is to ensure the safety and security around the area.
- What measures to be enacted if protestors won't leave?
 - It's time to go. Deliberate plan of action to ensure the streets are turned back to residents
- When will they intervene re kids in the protests?
 - Key concern – number of children who remain in the protest area. Working with children's aid and other organizations.
 - Plans will be deliberate to move children. Safety of the children is a priority as they dismantle the demonstration.
- Will this time be different?
 - Unprecedented steps to bring all tools together and to work with partners to amass resources to execute plan.
 - Increased presence of officers to indicate that we're at the end of protests.
 - Committed to ending the unlawful demonstration.
- Checkpoints - how will these work? What stops protestors from lying?
 - Over 100 checkpoints. Officers continue to be informed of the lawful reasons to be in the area?
- Goal for removals?

- Continuing to discuss with protestors in there and identifying that it's coming to an end. Will increase actions until there's normalcy.
- Heavy tow availability secured?
 - See no issues with the ability to remove vehicles at this point.
- Time frame?
 - Deliberate steps to create secure zone are aligned to ensure that numbers in demonstration aren't bolstered over the weekend.
 - This weekend will look very different.
 - Working with schools in the footprint
- How critical the EA powers are in terms of this plan?
 - Have seen growing frustration within the provincial and fed government and the growth in authority and ability to deal with the unprecedented protests. This has contributed to the OPS' ability to deal with the demonstrations.
- Encampments – what assurances can you give to people that these demonstrations won't pop up elsewhere?
 - Working with OPP and RCMP to ensure enough officers in and around Ottawa area, and look at protecting against simply displacing the protestors.
- Still negotiating with those who own the heavy vehicles. Still trying to get them to leave on their own?
 - We will never get to that point. We want everyone to leave peacefully. Escalation is last resort. Deliberate plan in place to end this if not peaceful.
 - Negotiating with different people who represent different pockets within the demonstration. Will talk to anyone needed to send them home.
- Truckers aren't leaving. How will you enforce this?
 - Can't share operational details. Many different circumstances and different plans exist. Peaceful exit is priority, but if not, we will get them to leave.

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